

House Resolution

No. 7

Introduced by Assembly Member Bonnie Lowenthal

February 10, 2011

House Resolution No. 7—Relative to California Teen Safe Driving Week.

1 WHEREAS, Law enforcement and other first responders,
2 teachers, parents, and friends are all deeply impacted by the loss
3 of teens from motor vehicle crashes on California’s roadways; and
4 WHEREAS, Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of
5 death for teens in the United States accounting for more than one
6 in three deaths; and
7 WHEREAS, Per mile driven, teen drivers 16 to 19 years of age
8 are four times more likely to crash than older drivers; and
9 WHEREAS, In 2009, more than 3,000 teens in the United States
10 15 to 19 years of age were killed and more than 350,000 were
11 treated in emergency rooms for injuries suffered in motor vehicle
12 crashes; and
13 WHEREAS, Seventy-seven percent of the 16-year-old drivers
14 killed in motor vehicle crashes in California were at fault; and
15 WHEREAS, Seventy-five percent of all fatal teen collisions are
16 caused by reckless and distracted driving and about 25 percent of
17 the fatalities involve alcohol and drugs; and
18 WHEREAS, Despite the fact that California has the highest rate
19 of seat belt usage in the nation, 37 percent of the 16-year-old
20 passengers who died in motor vehicle crashes in California were
21 not wearing seat belts; and

1 WHEREAS, Approximately two-thirds of the deaths of teen
2 passengers 13 to 19 years of age occur when other teens are
3 driving; and

4 WHEREAS, One in three teen drivers are involved in motor
5 vehicle crashes during their first year of driving; and

6 WHEREAS, There is no in-car driver training in California's
7 high schools and although driver's education is required in
8 California's public school curriculum, only about one-third of the
9 high schools actually offer it due to budget and staff limitations;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, A 16-year-old soccer player has had about 1,500
12 hours of coached soccer practice, but would need only 50 hours
13 of driving practice before getting his or her license; and

14 WHEREAS, A manicurist is required to have 400 supervised
15 hours of training in order to get a license, but a teen driver needs
16 only six hours of behind-the-wheel driving experience supervised
17 by a professional; and

18 WHEREAS, It is necessary to raise awareness; reach teens,
19 parents, and teachers; and influence change in risky driving
20 behavior in order to reduce the number of teens killed on
21 California's roadways each year; now, therefore, be it

22 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California*, That the
23 week of March 6, 2011, be declared "California Teen Safe Driving
24 Week"; and be it further

25 *Resolved*, That with the help of law enforcement organizations,
26 teachers, parents, students, and the Impact Teen Drivers program,
27 a nonprofit organization aimed at stopping reckless and distracted
28 teen driving, the State of California will observe the week of March
29 6, 2011, with appropriate activities that promote the practice of
30 safe driving among teen drivers.